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Corrales, New Mexico 87048

March 27, 2001

Docket 00N-1396 & Docket 00D-1598  
Dockets Management Branch  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Subject: Docket 00N-1396 & Docket 00D-1598

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed new rules on genetically engineered (GE) foods. As a consumer of a self-defined healthy diet I expect the government regulating agencies to require that I be provided with sufficient information on package labels to allow me to make informed decisions on the foods that I consume. I object to the new regulations as currently proposed and request the following changes:

- The FDA must require mandatory pre-market comprehensive environmental review. Unlike conventional pollutants, where a given amount of pollutant causes a limited amount of damage, a small number of mutant genes could have a population explosion and reproduce forever, causing unlimited and irreparable damage.
- The FDA must require mandatory pre-market long-term health testing. GE products could be toxic, cause allergic responses, have lower nutritional value, and compromise immune responses in consumers.
- The FDA must require mandatory labeling of GE products. Without mandatory labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a genetically engineered food. Consumers would be deprived of the critical knowledge needed to hold food producers liable should any of these novel products be hazardous.
- The FDA must end its cozy relationship with the industries it purports to be regulating. People have been allowed to work for a biotech company, then work for the FDA writing the regulatory rules on that company's product, and then go back to working for the company. Ninety-two percent of FDA advisory committee meetings had at least one conflict of interest.

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I am confident that the public reaction to the rules as currently proposed will be similar to the recent reaction to the initially proposed rules on definitions of organic foods. Please do not diminish the ability of the consuming public to make informed decisions on what types of foods we choose to consume.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas A. Doyle".

Thomas A. Doyle

Tom Doyle / Maria Sampayo  
305 Faculty Lane  
Corrales, NM 87048



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